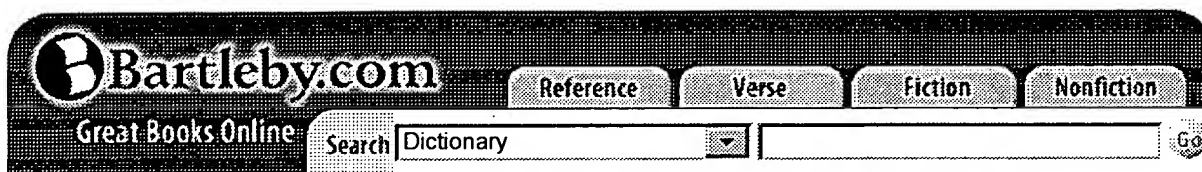




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The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

## effect

SYLLABICATION: ef·fect

PRONUNCIATION:  ɪ-ˈfɛkt'

NOUN: **1.** Something brought about by a cause or agent; a result. **2.** The power to produce an outcome or achieve a result; influence: *The drug had an immediate effect on the pain. The government's action had no effect on the trade imbalance.* **3.** A scientific law, hypothesis, or phenomenon: *the photovoltaic effect.* **4.** Advantage; avail: *used her words to great effect in influencing the jury.* **5.** The condition of being in full force or execution: *a new regulation that goes into effect tomorrow.* **6a.** Something that produces a specific impression or supports a general design or intention: *The lighting effects emphasized the harsh atmosphere of the drama.* **b.** A particular impression: *large windows that gave an effect of spaciousness.* **c.** Production of a desired impression: *spent lavishly on dinner just for effect.* **7.** The basic or general meaning; import: *He said he was greatly worried, or words to that effect.* **8. effects** Movable belongings; goods.

TRANSITIVE VERB: Inflected forms: **ef·fect·ed**, **ef·fect·ing**, **ef·fects**

**1.** To bring into existence. **2.** To produce as a result. **3.** To bring about. See Usage Note at **affect**<sup>1</sup>.

IDIOM: **in effect** In essence; to all purposes: *testimony that in effect contradicted her earlier statement.*

ETYMOLOGY: Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *effectus*, from past participle of *efficere*, to accomplish : *ex-*, *ex-* + *facere*, to make; see **dhē-** in Appendix I.

OTHER FORMS:

**ef·fect' er** —NOUN

**ef·fect'i·ble** —ADJECTIVE

**SYNONYMS:** *effect, consequence, result, outcome, upshot, sequel* These nouns denote an occurrence, situation, or condition that is caused by an antecedent. An *effect* is produced by the action of an agent or a cause and follows it in time: "*Every cause produces more than one effect*" (Herbert Spencer). A *consequence* has a less sharply definable relationship to its cause: "*Servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt*" (John P. Curran). A *result* is viewed as the end product of the operation of the cause: "*Judging from the results I have seen ... I cannot say ... that I agree with you*" (William H. Mallock). An *outcome* more strongly implies finality and may suggest the operation of a cause over a relatively long period: *The trial's outcome might have changed if the defendant had testified*. An *upshot* is a decisive result, often of the nature of a climax: "*The upshot of the matter ... was that she showed both of them the door*" (Robert Louis Stevenson). A *sequel* is a consequence that ensues after a lapse of time: "*Our dreams are the sequel of our waking knowledge*" (Ralph Waldo Emerson). See also synonyms at **perform**.

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